



# News Release

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**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)**

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**For Release:** February 12, 2010

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## **Deep Fork NWR seeks comments on Environmental Assessment for new Administrative Office**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced that Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will receive funding through the Recovery Act of 2009 to construct a new administrative facility. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has drafted an environmental assessment (EA) and is accepting public comment on effects to the area through March 5, 2010.

The new administrative facility will include office space for staff and volunteers of the Refuge and will provide more accessible service and convenience to the public, as visitors will be able to meet with refuge staff at the new facility instead of in the Post Office in Okmulgee. The facility will be approximately 2700 square feet and will be constructed south of Okmulgee at the Cussetah Bottoms Boardwalk area. In addition to the office building, utility lines, parking lots, and a new driveway will be constructed. The address for the area will be 21844 S. 250 Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Public scoping for the project was held until December 15, 2009, and the draft EA was developed utilizing comments from the scoping process. The Service is soliciting comments on the draft EA with copies available at the Okmulgee Public Library, the Deep Fork National Wildlife Administrative Office in the Okmulgee Post Office, or on the Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/Oklahoma/Deep Fork>

Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1993 to protect the bottomland hardwood forest lands of eastern Oklahoma and the wildlife which utilize them. The Refuge is located in the Deep Fork River Basin, upstream from Eufaula Reservoir. The Deep Fork River creates habitat for a varied and rich diversity of wildlife; at least 147 species of birds, including a wide variety of migrating and wintering waterfowl, fifty-one species of mammals, fifty-four species of reptiles and thirty-eight species of amphibians, inhabit the bottomland forest and associated wetlands. The Deep Fork River also provides a great habitat for an array of fish including channel catfish, blue catfish, flathead catfish, crappie, white bass, largemouth bass and carp. In addition, a total of 16 freshwater mussels inhabit the Deep Fork River.

Please provide any comments, questions, or concerns to:

Darrin Unruh, Refuge Manager  
Deep Fork NWR  
P.O. Box 816  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
918-756-0815

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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